



Water Permits Division e-Newsletter

APRIL 20, 2011

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A SUMMARY OF WATER PERMITTING NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

JANUARY — MARCH 2011

PERMITS ISSUED

1/1/11—3/31/11

Individual Minors	59
Individual Majors	5
Sewage Sludge & Biosolids Use or Disposal	35

GENERAL PERMITS

Class I Sanitary	75
Class II Sanitary	12
Class III Sanitary	2
Class IV Sanitary	2
Large Construction	171
Sand & Gravel	2
Petroleum UST	1
Oil & Gas Exploration—Coastal	0
Oil & Gas Exploration—Territorial	1
Auto dealer	3
Hydrostatic Test	7
Exterior Vehicle Wash	25
Potable Water	0
Cement, Concrete & Asphalt	4
C&D Landfill	1
Groundwater	17
Dewater PST	0
Multi-Sector	22
Light Commercial	31

% CURRENT

MAJORS	97.0
MINORS/GENERALS	97.6

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

ISSUED	112
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TMDLS

Public Noticed	5
Approved by EPA	0

ASSESSMENTS

Data Sets Evaluated	197
Solicitation of Views Letters Reviewed	155

Water Permits Division (WPD) Newsletter

DEQ Water Permits Division publishes this quarterly newsletter to provide the regulated community, citizens, and other interested parties with updates and information relevant to water permitting. We welcome and solicit your comments, recommendations, and input. Please contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3197.

Water Permits Division Staff Update

Amy Exnicios has been hired as an Environmental Scientist assigned to the Industrial Permits Section. Lucy Tang and Tara Nixon transferred to the WPD in March 2011. Bruce Fielding moved to ES Manager in the Industrial Permits Section. Dick Duerr retired from the DEQ in January 2011. Amanda Vincent transferred and was promoted to DCL-A in the Inspections Division of the Office of Environmental Compliance and Scott Williams was promoted to Administrator of the Waste Permits Division. We all wish them good luck and express our thanks to them upon their future endeavors.

General Permit Update

LAG480000 – The Master General Permit for Discharges from Light Commercial Facilities was reissued October 20, 2010. Facilities currently covered under the general permit must reapply by March 30, 2011. Failure to reapply by the deadline will result in termination of the permit. If you have any questions, contact Kim Corts at (225) 219-3208.

LAR050000 – The public comment period for the Master Multi-Sector General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities ended on April 7, 2011. Currently public comments are being addressed. If you have any questions, contact Kim Corts at (225) 219-3208.

ASIWPCA Weekly Wrap

The Weekly Wrap is a new ASIWPCA communication feature implemented in late October 2010. It is a one-page road map of the past week's events and upcoming activities. The Wrap also reminds our membership of important deadlines and may highlight information distributed by the Association. We look forward to any feedback on this new member service! For more information see the website: www.asiwpca.org.

MS4 Training Seminars

The WPD will participate in training seminars for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) in 2011. The training seminar is **FREE** for all attendees. For registration, go to the EnviroSchool Web site at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/Default.aspx>. The schedule is as follows: Shreveport, May 11th; Monroe, May 12th; Alexandria, May 26th; Lake Charles, June 9th; Lafayette, June 23rd; Covington, July 7th; Houma, July 28th; Baton Rouge August 18th.

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Antidegradation

DEQ is working with EPA Region 6 on implementation procedures for the state's Antidegradation Policy. DEQ submitted draft Antidegradation Implementation Procedures to EPA for technical review on May 20, 2010 and is reviewing the EPA responses received on Oct. 19, 2010. The revision will be public noticed when the draft procedures have been technically approved by EPA. For more information contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

Gulf of Mexico Program/Alliance

A special web link is present on the DEQ Home Page. It can be found on the right side of the page. The site contains recent information on Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia, the Gulf of Mexico Program and Alliance, Gulf Guardian Awards and the Mississippi River. Information on the site is updated as necessary and may also be accessed at: www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/HOME/GulfofMexicoandMississippiRiver.aspx. For more information please contact Dugan Sabins at 225-219-3188.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy

DEQ is taking a lead to develop a Louisiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy to address nutrient issues in state water bodies. To develop the strategy, DEQ is partnering with both state and federal agencies, industries, municipalities and other organizations. The strategy is being developed to be compatible with approaches being developed by the National Hypoxia Task Force, Gulf of Mexico Alliance and Louisiana Coastal Restoration Master Plan. DEQ has been a member of the National Hypoxia Task Force, since its inception in 1997. Composed of 12 Mississippi River States and five federal executive departments, the task force brings state and federal agencies and resources together to reduce the size of the Gulf hypoxic zone while protecting and restoring the human and natural resources of the Mississippi River Basin. Louisiana's participation is important since the majority of the hypoxic waters lies off our coastline and impacts our citizens and marine life. Contact Dugan Sabins at 225-219-3188 for further information.



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LAG330000 Update/ Online Application

LAG330000- Master General Permit for Discharges from oil and gas exploration, development and production facilities located within coastal waters was issued on January 31, 2011. Dischargers who are currently permitted under the LPDES version of this permit that expired on November 30, 2010 are not required to submit a new NOI. Provided the applicability requirements of the reissued permit are met, these permitted dischargers are automatically covered. Permit conditions in the reissued permit are effective for these automatically authorized permittees three days after the postmark date of the notification of coverage. DEQ is in the process of sending notifications to 730 active permit holders. A copy of the permit can be accessed and printed from DEQ's Internet website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=KRnppyp8K4c%3d&tabid=245>. Proposed facilities and proposed independent oil and gas wells desiring coverage must submit a completed NOI at least 14 calendar days prior to commencement of discharge. For more information contact Valerie Powe at 225-219-3214. DEQ launched the online application for the above permits (LAG330000) on July 1, 2010. It is for facilities operating inland of the territorial seas in waters of the state. The application allows them to bypass the initial paper submittal process. For more information go to the website: www.deq.louisiana.gov/onlinepermitapplications.

Sewage Sludge Haulers and Disposal Sites

WPD has registered 251 haulers for 2010-2011. The Annual Sewage Sludge Reporting Forms were due February 19, 2011. **If you did not submit your reporting form, you will not be approved to haul sewage sludge for the 2011-2012 year.** No one can pump or haul sewage sludge until they have received approval from DEQ. To re-register for the 2011-2012 year, the sewage sludge hauler notification form must be submitted no later than May 1, 2011. A list of all approved sewage sludge disposal facilities and a separate list of all approved sewage sludge haulers is posted on the DEQ Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Internet site <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=2296>. Both lists will be updated every 60 days. For more information contact Eura DeHart at 225-219-3213 or Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

Updates to Sewage Sludge Regulations

DEQ is currently updating sewage sludge regulations at LAC 33:IX Chapter 73. Updates will include clarifications of the regulations, reporting requirements, and department policies. Updates will be published in the Louisiana Register on April 20, 2011. A public hearing on the proposed updates will be held in Baton Rouge on May 24, 2011. Facilities that discharge less than one million gallons per day of sanitary wastewater and do not receive domestic septage or portable toilet waste now have until January 1, 2013 to apply for a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit. It is estimated there are more than 7,000 sanitary wastewater treatment works, in the state, subject to the deadline. For more information check the Biosolids website <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=2296> or contact Eura DeHart at 225-219-3213.

Pesticides Regulation / LPDES General Permit Update

In May 2009, the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals granted EPA's request to establish the new rules on how pesticides will be used/applied. Implementation of the new rules was to begin April 2011, however, on March 28, 2011, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit granted EPA's request for a 2nd extension of the deadline for when permits will be required for pesticide discharges into U.S. waters from April 9, 2011 to October 31, 2011. DEQ public noticed a draft General Permit on January 10, 2011, to cover pesticide discharges by applicable facilities and agencies within the State of Louisiana with the final LPDES permit to be issued October 2011 prior to the end of the 2nd extension. **No pesticide permit coverage shall be needed until October 31, 2011. The permit will incorporate existing pesticide control measures currently managed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and provide for reporting, inspection and compliance monitoring activities to be supervised by LDEQ. The LDEQ Pesticides General Permit is not for facilities already covered by a current LPDES Permit. Discharges and usage of pesticides by these facilities must be consistent with the issued and applicable LPDES permits, or Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requirements, located on the container, and applicable Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) regulations governing pesticide usage.** For more information contact Bruce Fielding at 225-219-3231 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3197.

DEQ's Water-Improving Assessment

EPA Region 6 announced that it has approved 22 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) packages submitted by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in December 2010. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet the water quality standards. TMDLs are a way to identify load reduction and other actions that can be taken to improve water quality. DEQ staff continually assesses the water quality of the streams, bayous and lakes throughout the state. By using this data, DEQ scientists can determine pollutant load allocations which will help maintain water quality in waterbodies that are not impaired, and improve those that are impaired. Between 2010 and 2011, DEQ public noticed 31 TMDLs, which is more than in any time within the last 10 years. The 22 TMDLs approved in 2011 are more than any year since 2002 and the department is on pace to complete more than 43 TMDLs this year, which will be more than any year ever. For more information please contact Chuck Berger at 225-219-3366.

2008 Draft Integrated Report

On April 6, 2011 EPA reached a decision on the 2008 Water Quality Integrated Report. EPA opened a public comment period through the Federal Register announcing this decision on April 13, 2011. The 2008 report is still not considered final until EPA formally announces their final decision at the conclusion of their process. As a result, the 2006 Water Quality Integrated Report is still the official report for permitting and other purposes. For more information contact Al Hindrichs at 225-219-3212.